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every home, and therefore concerns the women of our land. While a question of universal interest, it is one upon which opinions are divided.

Some people claim that the labor problem can only be settled by recourse to arms, and the prediction has been made that the South, gaining steadily in wealth and again wielding an influence in national affairs, will some day in the future endeavor to retrieve its lost cause. Murmurings of war with foreign powers are heard whenever an insult is offered to our flag as it waves over some vessel bound for a foreign port.

Having for many years been associated with a work in the interest of those who have passed through the trials of war — those whose descriptions of the carnage of battle, the starvation of the prison and the lingering sufferings of hospital life vividly remind us of its horrors, I am convinced that their story has a potent influence in helping to continue that reign of peace that has blessed our land for twenty-eight years.

The civil war proved the stamina of our citizens and the valuable resources of our country, and the more its history is read and understood the less liability is there of the predictions of war becoming a reality.

I am not a prophet and cannot look with a prophet's eye into the centuries of the future, but I believe that the sentiment of the people of the present generation is adverse to the barbarisms of war, and that their better judgment will prevail when settling the great questions that are of importance to our national affairs.

### EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

Alexander the First, the young King of Servia, took the reins of government into his own hands on the 14th of April. At a banquet given to celebrate his success in passing the examinations of Servian students, he had the regents and ministers of State arrested and put under guard, and proclaimed himself king though still a year under legal age. Abuses of power by the regents and State officials are said to have led to this *coup d'état*, which was carried out without the least suspicion having arisen on the part of the regents.

Trouble has recently broken out between the Navajo Indians and the white settlers. These Indians have a reservation of twelve thousand square miles in New Mexico and Arizona. The trouble has been brewing for some time. Several engagements have taken place and a number of settlers have been killed. The war department has been notified.

The revolution which has taken place in Belgium during the last month in favor of universal suffrage is a phenomenon as instructive as it is unique. It is a curious illustration of the power of the masses in modern times. All previous efforts to obtain universal suffrage had failed. The ballot was in the hands of only a few thousands of rich people. The Parliament, representing these few rich and not the nation, steadily declined to extend the

suffrage. The people grew tired of this and struck, not for better wages, not for shorter hours, but simply to have the right to a share in the government. The movement spread to all parts of the country. There was collision in places and bloodshed, and several lives were lost. The soldiers sympathized with the strikers. The wheels of industry were nearly all stopped. The Parliament became alarmed, and the deputies hastened to grant universal suffrage while masses of angry men waited without. When the vote was known outside there was wild cheering and the crowd dispersed and the strikers all over the country went back to their work. The Senate speedily ratified the action of the House. But for this speedy action of the Parliament, there would almost certainly have been a bloody revolution overthrowing the kingdom and turning Belgium into a republic.

April is *par excellence* the month of tornadoes. This year these storms have been unusually frequent and violent. Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, Mississippi, Minnesota, Oklahoma and some of the States on the Atlantic coast have suffered great loss of life and property. The tornadoes in Northern Iowa and Nebraska and in Texas were among the most destructive ever known.

A memorial service to Bishop Brooks was held by the city of Boston in Music Hall on the evening of the 11th of April. The hall was crowded with friends of the great preacher. A poem was read by Rev. M. J. Savage, and the oration written by Dr. Samuel Eliot was read by Charles R. Codman.

The three caravels, the Santa Maria, the Nina and the Pinta, made to represent in size and rigging the ships with which Columbus and his men crossed the ocean four hundred years ago and sent by Spain to the Naval Parade, excited great interest alongside of the big modern ships.

On Mr. Blount's arrival in Hawaii the American flag was hauled down and the temporary protectorate declared ended. The latest reports say that the native population are very strongly opposed to annexation, and equally opposed to the restoration of the queen.

The new French ministry with Mr. Dupuy at its head, though generally considered weak, has the merit of having in it no one who was connected with the Panama corruptions.

Professor Henry Drummond has given during the month a course of twelve lectures in Huntington Hall, Boston, on the "Evolution of Man." The course began on the 4th of April, and the hall has been full to overflowing at every lecture.

On April 16th a total eclipse of the sun took place, which was visible in South America and Africa. Expeditions were sent out from a number of the leading observatories of the world to take observations, and important results are expected.